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## PNRO Brings Training to Alaska ACO

**U**pon learning that unwanted animals in Bethel, Alaska, were being put to death by gunshot, PNRO Director Bob Reder contacted the Bethel chief of police, who supervises the city's one-person animal control department. The police chief explained that although he and animal control officer Gary Watson found shooting companion animals unacceptable, they had little choice. Alaska requires animal control officers and euthanasia technicians to be certified in the use of sodium pentobarbital (an injectable drug that provides a merciful death when administered properly). To use the controlled substance, the department would need to meet special requirements to purchase and administer it. The chief explained that the city of Bethel did not have the funds to send Watson for the required training.

PNRO partnered with a benevolent HSUS member in Seattle to underwrite the travel expenses for Watson to receive humane euthanasia training at Anchorage Animal Control. In addition, our office facilitated Watson's attendance at the annual Alaska Animal Control *continued on page 2*

**Bethel, Alaska, ACO Gary Watson (second from right) joins others at the Alaska Animal Control Conference, which PNRO Director Bob Reder (left) also attended.**



HSUS

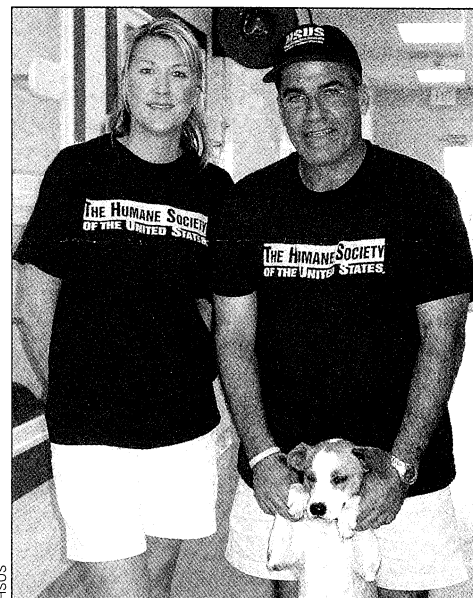
## PNRO Responds to Florida Hurricanes

**F**irst, Hurricane Charley hit Florida's Gulf Coast. Then Frances roared across the state's Eastern shore, followed by Ivan who battered the Panhandle. By the time Hurricane Jeanne arrived, Florida was storm weary; however, the needs of people and animals remained.

HSUS staff from regional offices across the United States, including PNRO's Inga Gibson, responded to assist local authorities in the difficult task of taking in animals from pet owners who had lost their homes, finding foster homes for families who were temporarily displaced, distributing pet food, and rescuing animals stranded by the storms.

HSUS's National Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) members from the Oregon Humane Society were on stand-by throughout the storms. These DART members are highly trained volunteers who assist animals during disasters. It was comforting to know that they were ready to respond if needed.

Gibson recalled one such rescue, which involved safely capturing two cats who belonged to an elderly, wheelchair-bound man whose mobile home had been flattened in the storm. "The home had no roof or walls," Gibson remarked. "All that remained was the floor, scattered with broken furniture and clothing. One of the cats was safely captured under the rubble of what used to be the bedroom as rescue workers, assisted by concerned neighbors, called for the cats until one slowly emerged, unharmed, from beneath the debris. The community was amazingly optimistic and appreciative of our efforts, even with all they



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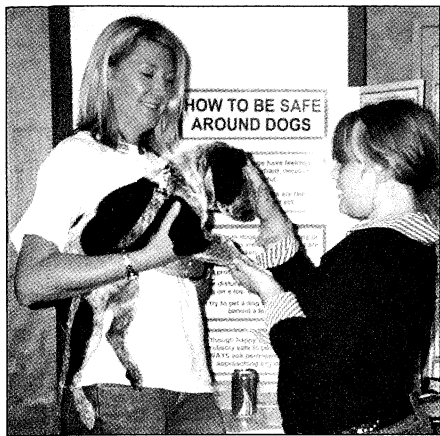
**PNRO's Inga Gibson and HSUS's Paul Bruce with a dog rescued after Hurricane Jeanne.**

had endured. Our efforts were successful because the community, with the support of numerous agencies and organizations, made animal welfare a priority."

We can be thankful that the Pacific Northwest has thus far been spared from many natural disasters that regularly afflict other parts of the country. However, volcanic eruptions, wildfires, tsunamis, flooding, and earthquakes are real threats. Rest assured that The HSUS, together with other dedicated organizations, will be there to help. For more information about disaster preparedness for animals, go to [www.hsus.org/disaster](http://www.hsus.org/disaster).

## Seattle Goose Project Update

**T**he Seattle Parks Department plans to continue a moratorium on the use of lethal goose control methods at several Seattle parks for two additional years. This successful project, a partnership between The HSUS and the Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), relies on non-lethal methods of control and works thanks to the efforts of more than 70 volunteers. Interested in volunteering? Contact PNRO or PAWS at [www.paws.org](http://www.paws.org).



## PNRO, RAVS Visit Nez Perce

The HSUS's Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) program has three full-time veterinarians and more than 500 volunteers who provide veterinary services to communities where no other animal care services exist. RAVS visits Native American reservations, rural Appalachian counties, remote villages in Guatemala, and islands throughout the Caribbean and Pacific. Each year RAVS helps more than 20,000 animals at no cost to the clients or community. RAVS also provides essential hands-on education and experience to hundreds of veterinary students throughout the country, and helps to train local veterinary technicians who can help serve the community's basic veterinary needs between RAVS visits.

PNRO Program Coordinator Inga Gibson (above, left) assisted the RAVS team on a visit to the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho. PNRO staff provided humane education sessions that promoted the importance of spay/neuter, vaccinations, and regular veterinary care. They also gave presentations at the local elementary school about dog bite and rabies prevention and proper animal care. More than 200 dogs and cats were spayed or neutered during the three-day clinic. PNRO will visit three reservations in 2005—Fort Hall in Idaho and the Makah and Quinalt tribes in Washington—in addition to returning to the Nez Perce in Lapwai. Please visit the RAVS Web site for more information about the program: [www.ruralareavet.org](http://www.ruralareavet.org).

HSUS

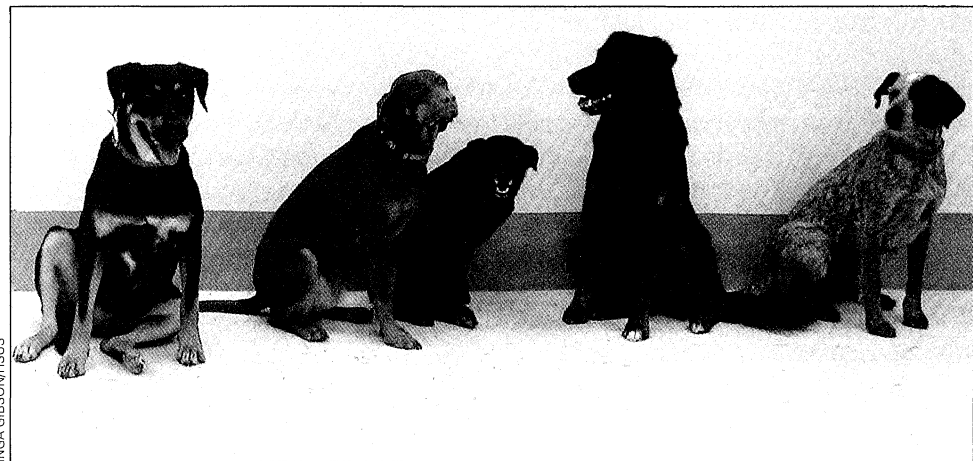
## Inmate Dog Alliance Project of Idaho

In a recent visit to the Idaho Correctional Center in Boise, PNRO Program Coordinator Inga Gibson got a first-hand look at the Inmate Dog Alliance Project at work. The Center has partnered with the Idaho Humane Society (IHS) to implement the project, which allows dogs from IHS to be temporarily housed with inmates at the center. Both the dogs and inmates must meet certain criteria. The dogs accepted into the project have been identified as needing intensive socialization and training to increase their adoptability, and inmates must demonstrate good behavior and have expressed an interest in participating.

Jeff Rosenthal, DVM, executive director of the Idaho Humane Society and developer of the project, told Gibson that "the ultimate goal of the program is to successfully place dogs who would otherwise be difficult to find homes for." Gibson learned that the project is of mutual benefit to inmates and dogs alike. "The inmates were so proud of their dogs. Each one eager to show off the new tricks and training they had been working on," she remarked. "Many of these dogs had been rescued from bad situations," observed Rosenthal. "The dogs were malnourished, underweight, or extremely unsocialized. Seeing the condition of the animals today, with good weight, shiny coats, and wagging tails, you would never know the situation they had come from."

The first "graduates" of the project were all adopted into loving homes last November. We wish them, the inmates, IHS, and the Idaho Correctional Center continued success with this project.

*These graduates of the Inmate Dog Alliance Project all found loving homes.*



INGA GIBSON/HSUS

*continued from "Alaska ACO," on page 1*

Conference while in Anchorage, where he participated in dog temperament evaluation training, offered by nationally recognized expert Sue Sternberg of New York and coinciding with Reder's attendance at the conference.

Four months later, Officer Watson reported to PNRO that not only had the City of Bethel begun humane euthanasia, but it had also started mandatory licensing and microchipping of every dog and cat in the city. Their efforts have reduced the need to euthanize unwanted animals by 80 percent.

"Because of pet overpopulation, irresponsible pet ownership, and too few adoptive homes, animal shelter staff are forced into making life and death decisions almost every day," said Reder. "It is clear that through training and community based programs, the need for euthanasia can be reduced and eventually eliminated."

We congratulate the city of Bethel for supporting Officer Watson, and we applaud Watson for immediately applying the training he received and implementing new programs designed to reduce euthanasia, return stray animals to their homes, and adopt unwanted dogs and cats in Bethel.

## HSUS, Fund for Animals Join Forces

The HSUS and The Fund for Animals (The Fund) officially joined forces in an unprecedented and historic combination on January 1, 2005. This is the first time in the history of the animal protection movement that two national, high-profile organizations have united in order to advance their common mission.

"Our groups have decided to join forces not out of necessity, but because we believe we can do more to help animals together than we can do operating separately," said David O. Wiebers, M.D., chair of The HSUS's board of directors.

The two groups plan to operate their advocacy programs under the banner of The HSUS, building a new external affairs department to focus on major defining issues such as fur, sport hunting, factory farming, and malicious animal cruelty, including animal fighting. They will pursue these goals with a multifaceted approach involving investigations, litigation, communications, and professional campaigning.

"With our new campaigns, we will create meaningful social change for animals," said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The HSUS. "Our goal is nothing short of a kinder society, where compassionate individuals join with us to ensure that animals are not abused either in random acts of cruelty or in institutional settings, such as industrial factory farms."

## Legislative Update

### Idaho

Increasing penalties for animal cruelty and animal fighting. At the urging of The HSUS; the Idaho Humane Society; Becky Phillips, DVM; and others, Rep. Tom Trail introduced H.B. 167, which would have increased the penalty for certain acts of animal cruelty and animal fighting. Rep. Donna Boe introduced H.B. 232 and H.B. 233, which would have increased penalties for animal fighting to the felony level. Sadly, the bills were held in committee. Idaho is one of only two states that has not made dogfighting a felony. Despite these bills' failure, a significant support base has emerged that will bolster future efforts.

### Oregon

Hound hunting of cougars. H.B. 2759 and H.B. 2781 permit hound hunting of cougars in six to 10 counties designated as a "pilot program." This permits a return to using hounds for sport hunting of cougars, a practice decisively rejected twice by Oregon voters. *Oppose.*

Prohibiting ownership of exotic animals. H.B. 3046, by Rep. Hass and S.B. 661, by the committee on Environment and Land Use, prohibits sending, receiving, possessing, and breeding of exotic animals. *Support.*

### Washington

Strengthening animal fighting laws. According to law enforcement, humane officers, and informants, animal fighting activities are increasing in the Northwest. In addressing this issue, Rep. Tom Campbell introduced H.B. 1579, which would amend existing law R.C.W. 16.52.117. This bill, supported by The HSUS, would have strengthened existing language to give law enforcement additional tools to investigate and develop probable cause to present to prosecuting attorneys and the courts. It also would have increased the penalty for fighting animals to a class C felony. This bill also addresses stealing pets to be used as bait animals in training fighting dogs. Although this bill did not pass out of committee, attempts are being made to introduce an amendment that would include the language found in H.B. 1579 in another animal cruelty bill.

Trapping law under fire. Once again, trapping proponents mounted an effort to overturn Ballot Initiative 713 (I-713), passed in 2000. However, it appears that thanks to the efforts of The HSUS and other organizations, the law will remain intact, and there will be meetings held to mitigate problems concerning gophers and moles—the eradication of which prompted trapping proponents to attempt to subvert I-713.

## I want to learn how I can help our animal friends and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Please send me information about

- ☐ Making a memorial donation to honor the life of a pet, friend, or relative.
- ☐ Providing for my pets in my will and in case of emergency.
- ☐ Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS.

- ☐ Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS.
- ☐ Giving The HSUS a gift of stock.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

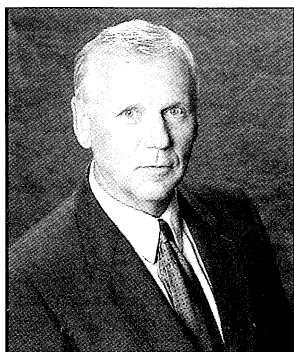
DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL (OPTIONAL) \_\_\_\_\_

*Promoting the protection of all animals*

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES**  
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE  
P.O. Box 88199  
Seattle WA 98138-8199

# Director's Report



**By Robert Reder**  
*Director of the Pacific Northwest  
Regional Office*

## We Need Anti-Animal-Fighting Laws With Teeth

**R**ecent investigations in the Northwest, including that of a high-profile professional athlete, have brought attention to the issue of animal fighting and what we believe is an increase in this illegal activity.

Former Portland Trail Blazers forward Qyntel Woods was under investigation by the Oregon Humane Society and the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office following allegations that he abandoned an injured pit bull. In addition, authorities seized evidence at Woods' home that was allegedly related to dogfighting. Across the Columbia River, Eduardo Ribaya is pending trial on charges of dogfighting brought by Vancouver, Washington, police. Police seized 21 pit bulls and other evidence that they believe relates to dogfighting. In Thurston County, Washington, Jesus Torres and Kristina Darnell were charged with cockfighting by the county district attorney. In Elmore County, Idaho, the sheriff's department cited 54 people for cockfighting; 33 roosters were euthanized, and \$1,400 in cash was seized in this case.

The HSUS conservatively estimates that more than 40,000 people are involved in organized dogfighting in the United States. Money is clearly a major impetus in this crime; phenomenal sums can be made, and the chances of getting caught are low. Illegal gambling is the norm during animal fights, as spectators wager on the outcome. It is also not uncommon for firearms and illegal narcotics to be present. The exposure of young children to this world of cruelty, gambling, guns, drugs, and violence is another shocking aspect of animal fighting. Witnessing such brutality can

promote insensitivity towards animal suffering and enthusiasm for violence. The presence of dangerously aggressive animals in a community increases the risk of attacks on children, who are most often the victims of dog attacks.

To protect animals and the public, our office offers training for police and humane agents to help them recognize and investigate animal fighting. We also assist prosecutors in evidence identification and expert testimony. Information obtained from concerned citizens is very important to the investigation of such clandestine operations. That's why The HSUS offers a reward of up to \$2,500 for information leading to arrest and conviction of animal fighting or other egregious acts of animal cruelty.

Dogfighting is already a felony offense in Alaska, Oregon, and Washington. But the crime is only a misdemeanor in Idaho, which makes that state an attractive haven for animal fighters. Cockfighting is a felony in Alaska and Oregon, but only a misdemeanor in Idaho and Washington. There is a current movement to strengthen



**PNRO Director Bob Reder (left) joined Chelan County sheriff's deputies and staff from Wenatchee Valley Humane Society in seizing 43 roosters and equipment associated with cockfighting on February 8, 2005. One suspect was arrested on weapons charges, and he faces additional animal fighting charges.**

existing Washington and Idaho laws to make both dogfighting and cockfighting felonies. This would include being a spectator at a fight; raising, breeding, and training animals for fighting; and possessing paraphernalia used for animal fighting.

If you are a resident of Washington or Idaho, please write to your state legislators and urge them to give anti-animal-fighting laws the "teeth" law enforcers need to prosecute these horrendous crimes. We would also encourage you to help increase public awareness about animal fighting by speaking to friends and neighbors and encouraging government officials to take animal fighting seriously.

## Contacting HSUS

### Write:

HSUS Pacific Northwest Regional Office  
P.O. Box 88199  
Seattle WA 98138-8199

### Fax:

425-656-5999

### Call:

425-656-9797

### Web Page:

[www.hsus.org/pnro](http://www.hsus.org/pnro)

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